involving a wide cross-section of Bangladesh society, President Ershad relinquished office on 6 December and handed over power to Mr Shahabuddin Ahmed, Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Mr. Ahemd as Acting President, is the Head of an interim government which would be holding general elections to the Bangladesh Parliament on 27 February.

(c) Government look forward to working closely with the democratically elected government of Bangladesh for the further strengthennig of Indo-Bangladesh relations

Encroachment of forest land by Scheduled Tribes people

754 SHRI JAGADISH JANI· Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to prepare the record of rights on the forest land encroached by the Scheduled Tribes before 1980,

(b) if so, the instructions given to the State Governments to issue pattas for those lands to those Scheduled Tribes People; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI)· (a) to (c) The Government of India has issued guidelines to all the State Governments to regularise encroachment cases of eligible categories of pre-1980 period where the State Government had already taken a decision Salient features of the guidelines are as follows

1 PRE-1980 ENCROACHMENTS WHERE THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A DECISION BEFORE ENACTMENT OF THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980 TO REGULARISE 'ELIGIBLE' CATEGORY OF ENCROACHMENTS.

1.1 Such cases are those where the State Governments had evolved certain eligibility criteria in accordance with local needs and conditions and had taken a decision to regularise such encroachments but could not implement their decision either wholly or partially before the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act on 25-10-80

1 2 All such cases should be individually reviewed For this purpose the State Govt may appoint a joint team of the Revenue, Forest and Tribal Welfare Departments for this work and complete it as a time bound programme.

1 3 In cases where proposals are yet to be formulated, the final picture after taking into considerations all the stipulations specified here may be placed before the concerned Gaon Sabha with a view to avoid disputes in future.

1 4 All encroached lands proposed for regularisation should be properly surveyed.

1 5 Encroachments proposed to be regularised must have taken place before 25-10-1980 This must be ascertained from the First Offence Report issued under the relevant Forest Act at that point of time.

1 6 Encroachment must subsist on the field and the encroached land must be under continuous possession of the encroachers.

1 7 The encroacher must be eligible to avail the benefits of regularisation as per the eligibility criteria already fixed by the State.

1 8 As far as possible scattered encroachments proposed to be regularised should be consolidated/relocated near the outer boundaries of the forests.

1 9 The outer boundaries of the areas to be denotified for regularisation of encroachments should be demarcated on the ground with permanent boundary marks

1 10 All the cases proposed to be regularised under this category should be

covered in one proposal and it should give district-wise details

1.11 All cases of proposed regularisation of encroachments should be accompanied by a proposal for compensatory afforestation as per existing guidelines

1.12 No agricultural practices should be allowed on certain specified slopes.

2. INELIGIBLE CATEGORY OF PRE-1980 ENCROACHMENTS WHERE THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A DECISION PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.

2 1 Such cases should be treated at par with post 1980 encroachments and should not be regularised.

3 ENCROACHMENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AFTER 24-10-80

3 1 In no case encroachments which have taken place after 24-10-1980 should be regularised Immediate action should be taken to evict the encroachers The State/UTs Government may, however, provide alternate economic base to such persons by associating them collectively in afforestation activities in the manner suggested in this Ministry's letter No 6-21/89-FP dated 1-6-90, but such benefits should not extend to fresh encroachers

This Ministry may kindly be apprised of the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard

Four laning of National Highway No. 5 from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar

755 SHRI JAGADISH JANI Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 175 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1990 and state:

(a) the amount of outlay fixed for 8th Plan for four laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5 in Orissa;

(b) whether World Bank fund is also expected to be made available for that project in 8th Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) (a) to (c) Four laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of NH-5 in Orissa (length 24 6 Kms.) has already been posed to the World Bank for loan assistance. It is too early to say when the loan would be negotiated

The amount of outlay for this project in the 8th Plan has not been decided so far, since the 8th Plan is yet to be finalised It is, however, included in the Annual Plan 1990-91 at an estimated cost of Rs 113 20 crores and a budget allocation of Rs. 30 lakhs has also been made in the current financial year

Situation in Sri Lanka

756 PROF SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been keeping a watch on the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to unsure truly self-Government for Tamils in Sri Lanka consistent with the unity and integrity of that country; and

(c) what steps are being taken for the upkeep of Tamil refugees who have come from Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) The Government of India has been closely following the evolving situation in Sri Lanka, particularly after the outbreak of hostilities between the LTTE and the Government forces since 11th June, 1990.

(b) The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has ultimately to be resolved by the Go-